



New England  
College of Optometry



The Academy of  
Ophthalmic Education  
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## **Yavar Ali Khan, RO, to Receive Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the New England College of Optometry**

Boston, MA, and Markham, ON – January 13, 2026 — The New England College of Optometry (NECO) has announced that Yavar Ali Khan, RO, will be awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree in recognition of his more than five decades of distinguished service to vision care, education, and professional regulation.

The honour was approved by NECO's Board of Trustees and will be formally conferred during the College's Commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 17, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., to be held at Symphony Hall in Boston.

In announcing the award, NECO recognized Mr. Khan as a pioneering optician, educator, and health-care leader whose work has had a lasting influence on vision care education, professional standards, and patient care access across Canada. As both a graduate and a distinguished faculty leader at Ryerson Polytechnic University, he played a significant role in advancing ophthalmic dispensing education and in establishing higher standards for professional training.

Mr. Khan's leadership extended beyond academia through his service as Chair of the College of Opticians of Ontario, where he worked collaboratively with provincial leaders and the Ministry of Health to help shape balanced scope-of-practice policies designed to strengthen the delivery of eye care. His contributions as an advisor to the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council (HPRAC) informed the landmark 2010 report on interprofessional collaboration, supporting more effective use of the eye-care workforce and improved access to care for patients.

In addition, Mr. Khan founded the Academy of Ophthalmic Education, along with related charitable initiatives dedicated to fostering collaboration, lifelong learning, and public benefit across the eye-care professions. As part of the Commencement program, honorary degree recipients are invited to deliver a brief address to graduating students.

### **About the New England College of Optometry**

The New England College of Optometry is a leading institution dedicated to optometric education, clinical training, research, and patient care. The College has a long-standing tradition of recognizing individuals whose contributions have meaningfully advanced health care and health education.

### **About the Academy of Ophthalmic Education**

The Academy of Ophthalmic Education (AOE) is a Canadian continuing-education organization founded in 1994, which delivers accredited professional development programs for eye-care professionals. Based in Ontario, AOE provides seminars, webinars, on-demand courses, and industry events focused on advancing clinical knowledge, professional standards, and collaboration across the eye-care professions.